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Economic Survey of the Village of Ryley, 2  
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# ECONOMIC SURVEY

OF THE  
VILLAGE OF  
RYLEY

LIBRARY  
VAULT

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

*Industry*  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

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MINISTER

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ECONOMIC SURVEY  
OF THE VILLAGE OF RYLEY

by

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

This survey was compiled with the assistance  
of Village officials, Board of Trade and  
citizens who were familiar with the history  
of the Village.

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MAY 1950



Village of Ryley June 1951

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VILLAGE OF RYLEY JUNE 1951

1. LOCATION

Northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 4-50-17-W4 in Census Division No. 10. This location is 57 miles east and south from Edmonton on Highway No. 14 and on the Canadian National Railway Transcontinental line. It is also on the Canadian National Railway branch line between Vegreville and Camrose.

2. ALTITUDE

2,280 feet

Latitude 53/17

Longitude 112/35

3. TEMPERATURE

Mean summer temperature 56°F

Mean winter temperature 20°F

Average yearly temperature 35°F

4. RAINFALL

Average yearly rainfall 11.56 inches

Average yearly snowfall 34.5 inches

Total yearly precipitation 15.01 inches

5. GEOLOGY

The rocks underlying the glacial deposits in this area are sandstones and sandy shales that were deposited in the large fresh water lakes which covered the region in the age termed "Upper Cretaceous" by the geological time scale.

Those sediments which are named the Edmonton formation are coal bearing. They are the source of coal in such centres as Edmonton and Drumheller. Added interest in these beds arises from the fact that they contain fossil remains of the dinosaur.

6. SOIL

This district lies in a Black soil zone. A description of this soil type follows:

Profile - The normal profile has a black to very dark brown surface (A) horizon that averages about 12 to 14 inches in depth. The more compact (B) horizon is brown to dark brown and the lime layer (Bca) is usually found at 30 to 40 inches below the surface.

Fertility - Soils in this zone are the most fertile in the province, and they have in their surface foot about 3 to 4 times as much nitrogen and organic matter as there is in the average brown or gray wooded soil. Every precaution should be taken to see that they are not allowed to deteriorate.

Vegetation - Grassland which has been partially invaded by woodlands (mainly deciduous trees) often referred to as parkland.

Land Use - A high percentage of the zone is arable. Wheat of a fairly good quality can be grown, but mixed farming, including the use of fertilizer when needed, is desirable from the standpoint of both profit and permanence.



7. HISTORY

Settlers arrived in the Ryley district southeast of Beaver Lake as early as 1881; Richard Steele and Wm. Inglis were the first white settlers. This district was surveyed for homesteads in 1884, and the townsite surveyed in 1908. The original hamlet known as Equity, was established in 1908 when a few stores were established under squatters rights about half a mile east of the present townsite. When the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway arrived about half a mile west of Equity in 1908 the present townsite was surveyed and named Ryley in honor of G.N. Ryley, then land commissioner at Winnipeg.

On April 2, 1910 Ryley was <sup>named</sup> erected to the status of a village. On November 11, 1911 the first train passed through Ryley from Vegreville to Camrose.

One outstanding pioneer who served the residents of this district for 41 years was Dr. J. L. McPherson who represented the Bruce constituency as a Social Credit member in the Alberta Legislature from 1935 to 1948. He was chairman of the school board for more than forty years. He died January 3, 1951.

A one-room school was started in 1907.

Natural gas from the Viking field entered the village in September 1923, and three phase 60 cycle power was supplied to residents by Calgary Power Ltd., in 1931.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS

Ryley lies on a stretch of rolling land that was covered with deciduous trees -(mostly poplar) - and small lakes when the hamlet was established about 40 years ago. Most of the lakes have dried up but there are still many shady spots among the trees that provide excellent picnic grounds.

There is an atmosphere of optimism and neatness about the place which suggests the residents are there to stay and make a home.

There is a good community spirit and sports are well provided for. There is a nine hole golf course, curling rink, a hockey and skating rink and the sports park provides facilities for baseball and softball.

There is good hunting for game birds, and the many shallow lakes provide good hunting for ducks and geese in the fall.

The schools teach the regular grades from 1 to 12 in addition to optional subjects which include shop work, home economics, music and typing.

A large proportion of the 320 students are transported by buses from rural areas.

About 90% of the 130 homes are owner-occupied, and 35 of these homes have been built during the last three years.

Rents run around \$30 to \$40 for 4 and 5 room cottages.

There is no central sewage or water system, water is obtained from wells that vary in depth from 30 to 125 feet.

Three phase 60 cycle power is available, and the only fuel used is natural gas.



9. ADMINISTRATION

The village is governed by a council of three. One councillor is elected each year for a three year term, and each year the council appoint one member as mayor for the current year. There is a part-time secretary who administers the village affairs according to the policy set by the council.

10. LAW ENFORCEMENT

There is a Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment with one corporal, a Justice of the Peace, and one town constable.

Regulations

A building bylaw requires plans for new buildings or major alterations, to be submitted to the council for their approval before any building is commenced.

Electrical installations must conform to the requirements of the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

Sanitary installations must comply with the Provincial Health Regulations.

11. FIRE PROTECTION

The fire department consists of a fire chief and six volunteer firemen.

Equipment consists of:

one ex-R.C.A.F. Ford crash truck equipped with a 500 gallon water tank

40 gallon foamite tank

600 feet of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose

50' metal extension ladder

1 smoke mask

1 asbestos suit

30 gallon soda-acid tank supported on a two-wheel hand drawn truck.

12. TAX STRUCTURE

<u>% of Actual Value</u>	<u>1950 Assessment</u>	<u>Mill Rate</u>
Land 100%	\$ 38,554	Schools 28
Improvements 100%	322,989	Municipal 18
Business - sq.ft. basis	36,202	46
Total	\$397,745	

13. AREAS

Total area of village	415 acres
Area in streets and lanes	40.34 acres
Public parks and playgrounds	17.66 acres



Road and street Mileage

Provincial main highway	.75 miles
Gravelled streets and lanes	1.50 miles
Ungravelled streets and lanes	3.25 miles
Unopened streets and lanes	.50 miles
Total	6 miles

There is .5 miles of concrete sidewalks and .75 miles of plank sidewalks.

14. SEWER AND WATER MAINS

None

15. POWER

Three phase 60 cycle power is supplied by Calgary Power Ltd., at the following rates:-

Domestic Service

Available only for lighting, heating, cooking, domestic power and ordinary uses in private houses and apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

First 20 KWH's (or less) per month	\$3.10 gross minimum
Subject to 30¢ prompt payment discount making	\$2.80 net minimum

All over 20 KWH's used per month    2¢ net per KWH

Note: Discount of 30¢ applies on all bills paid within discount period.

The foregoing rate applies where the maximum demand does not exceed 5 kilowatt. Where the demand exceeds 5 kilowatt an additional monthly demand charge of 50¢ per kilowatt will be made.

Connection Charge for new consumers	\$1.00
Reconnection Charge	\$5.60

Commercial Service

Available where other rates listed do not apply.

Service Charge

First 500 watts of installed capacity	\$1.20 per month
Each additional 250 watts of installed capacity	30¢ per month

Energy Charge

First 50 KWH's per month per KW of installation	10¢ per KWH
Next 150 KWH's per month per KW of installation	5¢ per KWH
All over 200 KWH's per month per KW of installation	2½¢ per KWH

Discount: 10%, if paid within discount period-based on even dollars only of total bill, with a minimum discount of 30¢.

Minimum Charge	\$2.30 gross, \$2.00 net per month
Minimum Deposit	\$4.60
Reconnection Charge	\$4.00

Power Service

(A.C) Available for motors, rectifiers, commercial heating apparatus, etc., in commercial establishments.



Service Charge

\$1.00 per month per Kilovolt-ampere (KVA) of installation (one motor horse power or one Kilowatt in heating apparatus to be considered equivalent to 1 KVA).

Energy Charge

First 50 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 5¢ per KWH  
 Next 50 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 3 1/3¢ per KWH  
 Over 100 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 1 2/3¢ per KWH

Discount: 10%, if paid within discount period-based on even dollars only of total bill, with a minimum discount of 30¢.

Minimum Charge \$3.30 gross, \$3.00 net per month  
 Minimum Deposit \$2.00 per HP with a minimum of \$6.00  
 Reconnection Charge \$6.00

16. WATER

The village water supplies are obtained from wells that vary in depth from 30 to 125 feet.

Analysis

	<u>Parts per Million</u>
Color	10
Turbidity	nil
Ph	8.2
<u>Solids</u>	
Suspended	0
Dissolved	4145
Organic	50
Mineral	4095
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )	6
Iron (Fe)	1.5
Calcium (Ca)	130
Magnesium (Mg)	50
Sodium (Na)	1243
Bicarbonate (HCO <sub>3</sub> )	822
Carbonate	trace
Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	1690
Chloride (Cl)	570
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )	0
Alkalinity	674
Total Hardness	534 37.4 grains per gal.
Carbonate Hardness	534
Non-carbonate Hardness	0

Hypothetical Combinations

Calcium Carbonate	325
Magnesium Carbonate	176
Sodium Carbonate	148
Sodium Sulphate	2500
Sodium Chloride	940
Organic Matter	50
Silica	6

17. GAS

Natural gas is supplied from the Viking field by Northwestern Utilities at the following rates:



Domestic, Commercial and Industrial Rates

This rate is available to all domestic, commercial and industrial customers, and is as follows:

First 4,000 c.f. or less.....\$2.00 per month  
All additional m.c.f.....20¢ per m.c.f.

This rate is subject to the following conditions namely, that in case any account is not paid on or before the due date, the charge per m.c.f. (other than the first 4 m.c.f.) shall be increased by 2¢ per m.c.f.

Optional, Commercial and Industrial Rates

This rate is available to all commercial and industrial customers and is as follows:

Class A (Commercial and industrial customers whose annual consumption exceeds 13,500 m.c.f. but does not exceed 34,000 m.c.f.)

Fixed Charge.....\$35.00 per month  
Commodity Charge.....17¢ per m.c.f.

Class B (Commercial and Industrial customers whose annual consumption exceeds 34,000 m.c.f.)

Fixed Charge.....\$120.00 per month  
Commodity Charge.....14¢ per m.c.f.

High Load Factor Rate

Available to customers on annual contract whose annual consumption of gas is not less than 6,000,000 c.f. and whose total consumption during the six meter reading periods ending May, June, July, August, September and October is not less than 50% of their total consumption for the year.

Fixed Charge - \$2.00 per month plus \$1.00 per 1,000 c.f. of maximum 12 hour demand.

Commodity Charge

First 1,000,000 cu.ft.....14¢ per 1,000  
Next 1,000,000 cu.ft.....12¢ per 1,000  
All additional cu. ft.....10¢ per 1,000

Minimum Monthly Charge - fixed charge.

Note: This schedule of rates applies to all sales of natural gas to Edmonton and suburbs, Toffield, Ryley, Holden, Bruce, Viking, and to those served from field lines in the Viking-Kinsella Gas Field, and also to customers served directly from the companies main lines between that field and Edmonton.

18. L.P. GAS

There is no propane gas used in the village. There are a few installations in the district and individual orders are handled from Edmonton as there is no local bulk storage.

19. DIESEL FUEL

There is no diesel fuel used in the village but quite a large quantity is consumed on farms in the district. The local oil agents have storage facilities for 6,000 gallons.



20. COAL .

None used in the village. Coal supplies for rural consumption are obtained from mines within the district.

21. LOCAL RESOURCES

Wheat  
Coarse grains  
Livestock  
Dairy products  
Poultry products  
Vegetables  
Honey  
Coal  
Sand and gravel

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

Federal

Post office  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachment (1 corporal)

Provincial

Justice of the Peace  
Alberta Government Telephones  
District Agriculturist  
Provincial Government Weed Inspector  
Treasury Branch

Municipal

Municipal District of Beaver No. 73 office  
Fire Department  
Village Secretary  
Village Office  
Village police department - 1 constable

23. HEALTH SERVICES

Ryley has no hospital of its own. The nearest hospital is at Tofield, eleven miles distant. The services of a visiting doctor are available for 2 day periods each week.

Drugs and medical supplies may be obtained from the village drug store.

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED SERVICES  
(excluding health services)

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>No. of Establishments</u>
Public accountant	1
Barber shops	1
Barristers and solicitors	2 visiting weekly

25. TRANSPORTATION

Canadian National Railway Transcontinental - 3 trains each way daily, Edmonton to Saskatoon  
Canadian National Railway Branch Line - 2 trains each way, twice weekly between Vegreville and Camrose.  
Sunburst Motor Coaches Ltd. - 2 buses each way daily between Edmonton and Wainwright.

There are numerous truck transport companies operating through Ryley between Edmonton and Wainwright.



26. NEWSPAPERS

The Ryley Times - included in the Toffield Mercury.  
Weekly, circulation 1200.

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian National Telegraph  
Alberta Government Telephones  
Radio stations at Edmonton

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Alberta Government Treasury Branch  
Alberta Farmer's Credit Union

29. HOTELS

	<u>No. Rooms</u>	<u>Single Rates</u>	<u>Beer License</u>
Ryley Hotel	28	\$1.75 up	yes

30. TOURIST CAMPS

None

31. CHURCHES

United  
Lutheran  
Roman Catholic

32. LODGES

Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Rebekahs

33. SERVICE CLUBS

Ryley Chamber of Commerce  
Canadian Legion  
Women's Christian Temperance Union

34. SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Canadian Red Cross Society  
Alberta Fish and Game Association  
Ryley Athletic Association  
Agricultural Society  
Women's Auxiliary

35. EDUCATION

Ryley School District No. 1866 is in the Holden School Division  
No. 17. There are three school buildings containing seven regular  
class rooms and two rooms used for part-time classes.

There are 8 regular teachers and 320 students who range in grades  
from 1 - 12. Optional subjects offered include shop, home economics,  
music, typing, sociology and biology.

Three vans are in operation continually, providing transportation  
for students of the rural area.

One of the schools mentioned is a new fully equipped two room



school which was completed in 1949 at a cost of well over 20 thousand dollars. A rapidly increasing enrolment will necessitate further building in the near future. Indications are that the high school will have well over 100 students next year, with a corresponding increase in the public school grades.

Worthy of mention in connection with the Ryley school is the fact that Dr. J. L. McPherson who represented the Bruce constituency in the Alberta Legislature from 1935 to 1948 was chairman of the school board continuously for a period of over forty years, until his death in January, 1951.

36. THEATRES AND HALLS

	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Piano</u>
Ryley Theatre	400	yes	yes
Legion Hall	250	yes	yes

37. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Ryley Little Theatre Group - an amateur hour conducted by the Ladies' Aide.

There is one 5 piece local orchestra.

38. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Boy Scouts  
Wolf Cubs  
Trail Rangers  
C.G.I.T.  
Junior Calf Club  
Junior Grain Club

39. SPORTS

	<u>Sports Facilities</u>
Baseball and softball	Sports grounds
Golf	9 hole golf course
Curling	3 sheets of natural ice
Hockey and skating	1 open rink

40. FAIRS

Ryley Exhibition - a two day affair held annually.

41. HISTORIC SITES

None

42. CO-OPERATIVES

Alberta Wheat Pool  
Alberta Poultry Producers

43. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

<u>Type of Industry or Business</u>	<u>No. of establishments</u>	<u>Producer or Manufacturer</u>	<u>Whole-sale</u>	<u>Re-tail</u>
Banks	1	.....	.....	.....
Barbers	1	.....	.....	.....
Butchers	2	.....	.....	2
Building Contractors	2	.....	.....	.....
Blacksmith	1	.....	.....	1



43 continued

Type of Industry or Business	No. of Establishments	Producer or Manufacturer	Whole-sale	Re-tail
Cartage	1	.....	.....	....
Coal Dealers	1	.....	.....	1
Cold Storage Lockers	1	.....	.....	1
Creameries	1	1	1	....
Drugs	1	.....	.....	1
Egg Grading Stations	1	.....	1	....
Electrical Appliances	1	.....	.....	1
Electrical Contractors	1	.....	.....	....
Garages and Service Stns.	5	.....	.....	5
Grain Elevators	3	Total capacity 163,000 bushels		
General Stores	5	.....	.....	5
Hair Dressers	1	.....	.....	1
Hardware	2	.....	.....	2
Hotels	1	.....	.....	1
Implement Dealers	4	.....	.....	4
Insurance and Real Estate	1	.....	.....	....
Law Offices	1	.....	.....	....
Lumber Yards	1	.....	.....	1
Milk Distributors	1	.....	.....	1
Milk Drying Plant	1	1	1	....
Oil Distributors	4	.....	.....	4
Painters and Decorators	1	.....	.....	....
Plumbers	1	.....	.....	1
Pool Rooms	1	.....	.....	1
Radio Repair	1	.....	.....	1
Restaurants	3	.....	.....	3
Shoe Repair	1	.....	.....	1
Theatres	1	.....	.....	....
Tinsmiths	1	.....	.....	1
Veterinaries	1	.....	.....	....
Welding and Machine Shops	1	.....	.....	1

#### 44. SITES

There are ample residential sites, and industrial sites adjacent to trackage which can be served with natural gas and electric power.

#### 45. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Ryley is a mixed farming district that produces some excellent pure bred stock and high quality grains.

There is no record of the amount of stock shipped in any one year, because most of it is shipped by truck direct to the larger marketing and processing centres.



Three grain elevators with a total capacity of 163,000 bushels are available for storing and handling grain in transit. An average crop year in this district produces around 350,000 bushels of grain. The average yield per acre for the past 17 years is:

Wheat	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels
Oats	30 bushels
Barley	21 bushels
Rye	14 bushels

The land in this district is underlain with a 12 ft. seam of sub-bituminous coal that has 12 to 40 feet of cover. Two small strip mines operate and produce about 4,000 tons of coal each year to supply rural residents with fuel.

Since 1949 a modern powdered milk plant has been in operation. This plant handles around 25,000 lbs. of milk per day.

46. TRADING AREA

The trading area extends 12 miles northeast, 8 miles southwest, 6 miles northwest and 6 miles southeast.

47. POPULATION

Trading area population - 1946 census - 1727  
1951 estimate - 1899

Village population - 1946 census - 338  
1951 estimate - 445

48. INTERESTING VIEWS OF RYLEY AND DISTRICT







